

Looking Violence in the Eye

Psalm 11:5-The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. (KJV)

Violence has taken many forms down through the centuries and requires attention. Christians are challenged to deal with the forms of violence in contemporary times. The challenge ranges from individual violent criminals to violence among nations. Violence has deep and far-reaching effects that are very hard to fully measure. Victims of violence are not always visible and identifiable in the community.

Psalm 55:9-Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues: for I have seen violence and strife in the city. (KJV)

Too often victims of violence suffer in silence and hide their suffering from others. Victims of war relocate to different nations and carry their hurt within themselves. Neighborhoods plagued with violence have residents traumatized all too often. News reports describe the rise of violent crime in cities and criminals walking free. Mass gun violence is viewed by some as having reached epidemic proportions.

Psalm 58:2-Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth. (KJV)

Evil resulting in harm to others that are innocent is beyond human understanding. Turning to the Lord God for guidance, comfort and direction is clearly necessary. The Psalmist wrote about violence centuries and centuries ago and offers wisdom. The Psalms offer wisdom, healing and direction when great suffering takes place. Believers trust in the Lord God to find the way to address and deal with violence.

Psalm 72:14-He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight. (KJV)

Saints and martyrs of the Church suffered from violence through the centuries. The saints and martyrs are resolute witnesses of faith in the face of violence. Confidence and faith in the Lord God are always well-placed in difficult times. The Lord God does not disappoint those remaining faithful when adversity arises. Seeds of hope are planted by the saints and martyrs suffering from violence.

Psalm 73:6-Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment. (KJV)

The Lord Jesus Christ was the Supreme Victim of violence and defeated death. Jesus Christ's Resurrection is the enduring source of hope in all circumstances. God's Holy Church is where to come to terms with violence and seek solutions. The Church is the source, haven and presence of peace in violent communities. Peace goes forth from God's Holy Church into communities plagued by violence,

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